

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 GUATEM 06251 072019Z

14

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 DHA-02 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 AID-05 /077 W

----- 013811

R 071855Z SEP 76

FM AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3042

INFO AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR

AMEMBASSY MANAGUA

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE GUATEMALA 6251

EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: SHUM

SUBJECT: CHRISTIAN DEMOCRAT LEADER PLEASED WITH GROWING US
INVOLVEMENT IN HUMAN RIGHTS

REF: GUATEMALA 5776

1. BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED. GUATEMALAN CHRISTIAN DEMOCRAT (DCG) LEADER
RENE DE LEON LUNCHEDED SEPTEMBER 2 WITH EMBOFFS AND SEEMED RELAXED
AND OPTIMISTIC ABOUT HIS OWN FUTURE AND THAT OF HIS PARTY, WHICH
HE SAID WOULD UNQUESTIONABLY WIN 1978 ELECTIONS AND, BECAUSE
OF UNSPECIFIED NEW STRATEGY DCG WOULD PURSUE, BE PERMITTED
TO TAKE POWER.

2. ASKED WHETHER HE THOUGHT THERE HAD BEEN ANY REPER-
CUSSIONS FROM HIS JUNE 8 TESTIMONY BEFORE FRASER SUB-
COMMITTEE, DE LEON SAID HE CERTAINLY DID, AND ALL OF THEM
HAD BEEN FAVORABLE. DCG HAD ATTRACTED NEW SUPPORT FROM
INDEPENDENTS AS RESULT OF PUBLICITY SURROUNDING HIS
TESTIMONY, AND CAUSE OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN GUATEMALA AND
CENTRAL AMERICA GENERALLY HAD BEEN STRENGTHENED. HE
MADE NO MENTION OF ANY FEAR OR THREAT TO HIS PERSONAL SAFETY.

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 GUATEM 06251 072019Z

3. DELEON SAID PROGRESS IS BEING MADE ON HIS PLAN FOR

WORLDWIDE CONFERENCE OF SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC, CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC, LIBERAL, AND US PARTIES ON HUMAN RIGHTS (REFTEL). HE SAID HE HAD DISCUSSED IDEA WITH REPS. FRASER AND FENWICK (R-NEW JERSEY) DURING A VISIT THEY MADE TO EUROPE WHILE DE LEON WAS IN EUROPE IN JUNE OR JULY AND FOUND THEM BOTH VER INTERESTED. HE SEEMED TO THINK CHANCES WERE GOOD BOTH REPUBLICAN AND DEMOCRATIC PARTIES MIGHT PARTICIPATE IN MEETING. THANKS TO FELLOW CHRISTIAN DEMOCRAT ALAIN POHER, PRESIDENT OF FRENCH NATIONAL ASSEMBLY, THIS MULTIPARTY CONFERENCE WILL BE HELD IN FRANCE, AND DE LEON HAS SO WRITTEN TO RE FRASER.

4. EMBOFFS BRIEFED DE LEON ON PROVISIONS OF P.L. 94-329. HE WAS AWARE THAT BILL HAD BEEN UNDER CONSIDERATION WHEN HE APPEARED BEFORE SUBCOMMITTEE, BUT HE DID NOT KNOW ITS SPECIFIC PROVISIONS ON HUMAN RIGHTS AND SEEMED TOBE PLEASED AND IMPRESSED BY WHAT WE TOLD HIM. WE ALSO TOOK OPPORTUNITY TO CORRECT SOME OF ERRORS HE HAD MADE IN HIS TESTIMONY CONCERNING US ECNOMIC AID, POINTING OUT THAT LAS LISAS HIGHWAY PROJECT WAS FINANCED BY IDB LOAN, NOT BY AID, AND THAT AID HAD NOT MADE AN INFRASTRUCTURE LOAN - MAIN TARGET OF HIS CRITICISM - IN GUATEMALA SINCE 1971. AID WAS IN FACT CARRYINF OUT EXACTLY KIND OF CONTROVERSIAL, POOREST-SECTOR-ORIENTED PROJECTS IFI'S RELUCTANT TO GET INTO. DE LEON SEEMED TO TAKE REBUTTAL IN GOOD SPIRIT, COMMENTING MILDLY THAT US HAD CONSIDERABLE INFLUENCE ON IFI POLICIES. WE RESPONDED WITH STORY OF HARKIN AMENDMENT, IDB LOAN TO CHILE, AMD MEXICAN AND VENEZUELAN VOTES, WHICH SURPRISED HIM CONSIDERABLY. END UNCLASSIFIED.

5. BEGIN LOU. WE ASKED DE LEON ABOUT ALLEGED SOMOZIZATION OF CENTRAL AMERICA HE HAD REFERRED TO REPEATEDLY IN HIS TESTIMONY. HE SAID HE HAD TALKED TO REPORTERS WHO GLIMPSED SOMOZA ON SECRET VISIT HE MADE HERE RIGHT AFTER 1974 ELECTIONS, AND DE LEON IS CONVINCED SOMOZA WAS INFLUENTIAL IN PERSUADING ARANA TO CHANGE ELECTION RETURNS AND DECY POWER TO DCG. IMPLEMENTING CURRENTLYEL SALVADOR-HONDURAS CEASEFIRE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 GUATEM 06251 072019Z

HAD BEEN WORKED OUT UNDER PRESSURE FROM SOMOZA IN HIS RESIDENCE. DE LEON DID NOT OF COURSE OPPOSE CEASEFIRE, BUT HE FEARS INCREASING POWER OF SOMOZA OVER OTHER, WEAKER, MORE TRANSIENT GOVERNMENTS OF REGION. END LOU.

6. BEGIN UNCLASSIED.
DE LEON RECALLED THAT POLITICAL COUNSELOR HAD

LUNCHEd IN DE LEON'S HOME EXPRESSED APRECIATION
FOR RECIPROCITY, AND HOPE THAT CONTACT WOULD CONTINUE.
WE ASSURED HIM IT WOULD.
ANDREWS

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: HUMAN RIGHTS, PARTY UNITY, PARTY LEADERS, US CONGRESSIONAL PRESENTATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 07 SEP 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: powellba
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976GUATEM06251
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760338-0857
From: GUATEMALA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760986/aaaacwem.tel
Line Count: 119
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 GUATEMALA 5776
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: powellba
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 16 JUL 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <16 JUL 2004 by izenbei0>; APPROVED <26 OCT 2004 by powellba>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CHRISTIAN DEMOCRAT LEADER PLEASED WITH GROWING US INVOLVEMENT IN HUMAN RIGHTS
TAGS: SHUM, PINT, GT, (DE LEON, RENE)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006